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Draft Claim for Discussion Purposes**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/620,498
Applicant: Yoshio HAGIHARA
For: IMAGE-SENSING APPARATUS
Confirmation No.: 3562
Customer No.: 24367
Docket No.: 15162/02240
Filed: July 20, 2000
Group Art Unit: 2615
Examiner: Gary L. Solomon

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DRAFT CLAIM

Attached is a draft claim corresponding generally to claim 1 to which the limitation of claim 14 have been added. I would like to discuss with you whether this will overcome the rejection in view of Dierickx, Nakamura, and Hynecsek.

1. (DRAFT) An image-sensing apparatus comprising:
 - a plurality of pixels, the pixels each comprising:
 - a photoelectric conversion portion that has a photosensitive element for producing an electric signal in accordance with amount of incident light and that outputs a signal obtained by converting the electric signal natural-logarithmically; [[and]]
 - a lead-out path by way of which the signal output from the photoelectric conversion portion is fed to an output signal line; and
 - an integrator circuit that integrates the signal output from the photoelectric conversion portion so that a signal integrated by the integrator circuit is fed by way of the lead-out path to the output signal line; and
 - a controller that detects a variation in sensitivity of the photoelectric conversion portion of each pixel by injecting an electric charge into the photoelectric conversion

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~~portion-portion.~~

wherein, during image sensing, the pixels can each operate selectively either in a first state in which the photoelectric conversion portion converts the electric signal linearly and in a second state in which the photoelectric conversion portion converts the electric signal natural logarithmically.

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DAI 325832v.1